

Mr. Speaker, with that, before I yield back the balance of my time, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, both in Afghanistan and in Iraq and throughout the world, and I will ask God to please bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for her leadership in making this week happen. Her resolution, H. Res. 928, passed the House on July 26, 2006, designating the week of September 10, 2006, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I also want to commend Minority Whip Steny Hoyer for organizing this discussion this evening.

Mr. Speaker, there are 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States that serve over 260,000 undergraduate students, with just over a quarter of all HBCUs offering either a first professional degree, a master's degree in business administration, or a J.D. or doctorate degree.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are defined as institutions established prior to 1964 with the principal mission of educating African Americans. HBCUs educated approximately 14 percent of the Nation's African American undergraduate students, awarding almost one-quarter, 23.1 percent, of all bachelor's degrees to black students. Almost half, 46.8 percent, of the undergraduate students attending HBCUs received Pell Grants, indicating that these institutions provide key educational opportunities for low-income African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I have 10 brothers and sisters. We grew up in rural Arkansas, where my parents were low-income sharecroppers. Seven of us attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. I also have three nephews and a niece who attended the same school, plus a number of cousins. I strongly believe that perhaps none of us would have been able to attend college had it not been for the fact that the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, which then was Arkansas AM&N College, existed.

These schools provide a nurturing environment and provide instructors that I remember even to this day. I remem-

ber the President, we called him "Prexy," Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Sr., who would often let us register, whether we had the money to pay our tuition or not. His son, Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Jr., is now the current chancellor and is just doing an outstanding job.

I remember a cousin of mine who graduated from UAPB and then moved to Champaign, Illinois, got his master's degree, Willie Summerville, who was honored by the City of Champaign a few weeks ago for being its outstanding citizen. He organized a choir and took it to Rome to sing for the Pope.

I could go on and on and think of just any number of outstanding individuals who were able to demonstrate their abilities and competency because of these institutions.

I think of many of my colleagues. As a matter of fact, a majority of my colleagues who are African American graduated from Historically Black Colleges and Universities: JESSE JACKSON, Jr., and his daddy, Jesse Jackson, Sr. I think of Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, who went to Fisk University, and on and on and on and on.

But the real deal is these institutions are worth their weight in gold. They have contributed significantly to the development of our country. They need all of the support that they can get.

So, again, I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for establishing this week and congratulate all of these institutions for the tremendous job that they do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This past July, I was able to offer on the House floor a resolution recognizing National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

The week of September 10th is officially HBCU week. I am pleased to be able to join with my colleagues today to recognize these fine institutions of higher learning.

For over 170 years, our Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been on the forefront of preparing our nation's youth for a bright path and successful future. Originally founded for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for African Americans, HBCUs have profoundly changed the American economic and social climate.

The fact is that until 1964, HBCUs represented one of the only opportunities African

American students had to obtain a degree in higher education. HBCUs have changed the face of this nation and have opened the door for many generations of African American students.

Today, America's HBCUs continue to provide excellent educational opportunities to all Americans. Over 200,000 diverse students across the United States attend HBCUs today.

I am proud to represent Paul Quinn College, the oldest historical Black college west of the Mississippi River. For over 130 years, Paul Quinn has provided their students with the tools to become successful leaders. Because of their unique resources, HBCUs continue to be extremely effective in graduating African American students and preparing them to compete in the global economy.

HBCUs graduate over half of all African American professionals, and fifty percent of all African American school teachers. Additionally, HBCUs remain extremely successful in graduating African American Ph.D's and scientists. The fact is that we cannot move forward as a country until all our children have the opportunity to succeed academically. Each day HBCUs help us bridge that achievement gap.

National HBCU Week allows us to reflect upon the impact these institutions have had on our history and to celebrate their continued commitment to outstanding education. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in passing the national HBCU week resolution.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities during this newly established National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, September 10 through September 16. I share September 10 with them because September 10 was my birthday.

This year's theme, "The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges," speaks to how important HBCUs have been to the education of African Americans and minorities in this country and how we must continue to preserve these unique institutions of higher learning.

□ 1815

Though I did not attend an historically black university, I understand the importance these schools played in African American history and African American heritage. Many HBCUs were formed during Reconstruction following the Civil War to educate freed slaves and sharecroppers. H. Patrick Swygert, the President of Howard University, noted the significance of HBCUs in a speech in which he stated "HBCUs provided the avenue for the descendants of sharecroppers to get an education in an environment that was sensitive to their special circumstances and one where their humanity would not be questioned. This

has always been, and continues to be, a defining feature of these colleges and universities in a society that in many ways remains hostile to people of color."

It is important to note that the founders of these institutions recognized the importance of educating African Americans long before the Supreme Court ruled on the groundbreaking *Brown v. Board of Education*. Additionally, many of those who were part of the legal team that won that case were educated and trained at Howard University right here in our Nation's capital.

Were it not for HBCUs, many of the great black minds of our time would not have had access to higher education. And some of the famous graduates include orator Booker T. Washington; civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; world renowned opera singer Leontyne Price; entertainer Oprah Winfrey; and former Members of Congress that have already been noted, Kweisi Mfume and Parren Mitchell.

The great State of Ohio boasts two HBCUs, Wilberforce University and Central State University. Named in honor of the great abolitionist William Wilberforce, Wilberforce University was founded prior to the end of slavery in 1856 and is the Nation's oldest private African American university. Former Congressman Floyd Flake is currently its President. Central State evolved from what was once a State-funded department of Wilberforce University known as the Combined Normal and Industrial Department. In 1941 the department expanded from a 2- to a 4-year program, and in 1947 it legally split from Wilberforce, becoming the College of Education and Industrial Arts at Wilberforce. The name was changed in 1951 to Central State College, and in 1965 the institution achieved its university status. I am the proud owner of an honorary doctorate degree from Central State University.

I am proud to have strong connections to HBCUs. Many of my family members attended, including my late mother, Mary Looney Tubbs, a graduate of Alabama State University; my late sister, Mattie Browder Still, a graduate of Alabama State University; and my sister Barbara Walker, who attended Morris Brown College. Additionally, my cousin Essie Baldwin attended Alabama State and my cousin Joan Wilson attended Morris Brown. Four of my staffers attended HBCUs. District Director Betty Pinkney and my health liaison are proud graduates of Central State. My Communications Director, Nicole Williams, a proud graduate of Spelman College; and my Scheduler, Lalla King, a proud graduate of Morgan State University.

As we continue to celebrate our HBCUs this week, it is my hope that we will begin to look at ways in which we can increase funding and resources for these historic institutions. Sadly,

many of the HBCUs remain underfunded in comparison to their predominantly white counterparts. Today I call upon both the Federal and State governments to increase funding to HBCUs so that they can remain competitive and continue to educate the leaders of tomorrow. They are not only part of African American history, they are part of American history, and the treasures they hold should be preserved for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BARTON of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join in this Special Order, and I salute my colleague the honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her wisdom in selecting this time, September 10 through September 16, to be able to honor our historic historically black colleges across America.

Where would we be today if we did not have those refuges that allowed those ex-slaves to be able to come to a place of comfort and seek an educational opportunity? The colleges range throughout America, from New York to North and South Carolina to Georgia to Louisiana to Texas and many other places. They are the places where young people could not be educated elsewhere because of the dual society and the very hostile segregation that existed in America. These historically black colleges created the opportunities for geniuses to be educated.

I am very proud of several of the institutions in our State, and there are so many in the State of Texas, two that happen to be in my jurisdiction that I am particularly proud to mention: Texas Southern University that was created out of the segregated society of Texas. Heman Sweatt, who wanted to attend the University of Texas Law School, could not do so because the doors were closed. So they al-

lowed him to go in the basement of that school but realizing that they could not block Negroes in the 1940s from achieving an education, the birth of Texas Southern University. How proud we are that out of that institution that came out of the ashes of segregation we had the magnificent Members of this body, the honorable Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, both graduates of Texas Southern University. Its neighbor just down the street, Prairie View A&M University, has produced some of the outstanding African American engineers who have gone on to NASA and other institutions of engineering prominence to be able to be the scientists, the engineers, and the mathematicians of this day and time.

It is interesting to note that historically black colleges have always been alongside the black church, the place where the fight for segregation to end could find a place of comfort. Many do not know that there were few places that African Americans could meet in the 1800s and certainly in the 1900s. There were few places that African Americans could meet as they began to strategize for the civil rights movement after the *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* case of Thurgood Marshall's. They could meet at historically black colleges. In fact, Howard University is the anchor of civil rights lawyers. The first place that civil rights lawyers could be trained was at Howard University. And major lawyers who, of course, led the way of the civil rights litigation of the 1950s and 1960s, lawyers who protected the rights of civil rights workers in the Deep South, came out of historically black colleges. And they were the places where the civil rights workers could meet, where the civil rights strategists could meet, with the likes of Martin Luther King, with the likes of Julian Bond, with the likes of Andrew Young, could meet and strategize. And, of course, many of them were the products of African American churches and denominations that provided the resources for those institutions.

Let me speak of today because I think there is a challenge for historically black colleges, one, in our recognition, but they should be a challenge in this government. We have to do much better by historically black colleges. If you compare the research grants that have been given to other institutions of learning, the black colleges have not had their equal share. That is patently unfair. And I am delighted that Texas Southern University will be hosting in February of 2007 a major minority institute research conference to focus on that absence of dollars coming from the Federal Government because those colleges are equal too. I know they are equal because they rose to the occasion when the flood waters and winds raged in the Gulf Coast region. Those schools that were devastated were able to seek refuge for their students in other historically black colleges. Dr. Francis, who